

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of increasing the palatability of an extruded pet food product comprising ~~applying~~ spraying a liquid palatability enhancing composition including at least one sodium tripolyphosphate salt to said extruded pet food composition, wherein said palatability enhancing composition is applied in a quantity sufficient to contribute from about 0.01 to about 5.0 percent by weight of said at least one sodium tripolyphosphate salt to said pet food composition and said palatability enhancing composition further comprises at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of meat products, meat by-products, fish products, fish by-products, dairy products, dairy by-products, sources of microbial proteins, vegetable proteins, carbohydrates and amino acids.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said palatability enhancing composition comprises from about 5 to about 50% by weight of at least one sodium tripolyphosphate salt

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said palatability enhancing composition is applied in a quantity sufficient to contribute from about 0.05 to about 2.0 percent by weight of at least one sodium tripolyphosphate salt to said pet food composition.

6.-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 [[7]], wherein said liquid composition has a pH between about 2 and about 9.

9.-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said extruded pet food composition is a dry cat food.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said extruded pet food composition is a semi-dry cat food.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A liquid palatability enhancing composition for extruded pet food, said composition comprising from about 5 to about 50% by weight of at least one sodium tripolyphosphate salt ~~in an amount effective to enhance palatability~~ and at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of meat products, meat by-products, fish products, fish by-products, dairy products, dairy by-products, sources of microbial proteins, vegetable proteins, carbohydrates and amino acids.

17.-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 16 ~~[[23]]~~, wherein said composition has a pH between about 2 and about 9.

25. (Currently Amended) An extruded pet food composition comprising a spray-applied palatability enhancing quantity of the composition of claim 16, wherein said quantity is sufficient to contribute from about 0.01 to about 5.0 percent by weight of at least one sodium tripolyphosphate salt to said pet food composition.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) The pet food composition of claim 25 ~~[[26]]~~, wherein said palatability enhancing composition comprises from about 5 to about 50% by weight of at least one sodium tripolyphosphate salt.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Original) The pet food composition of claim 25, wherein said palatability enhancing composition is present in a quantity sufficient to contribute from about 0.05 to about 2.0 percent by weight of at least one sodium tripolyphosphate salt to said pet food composition.

30. (Original) The pet food composition of claim 25, comprising a dry cat food.

31. (Original) The pet food composition of claim 25, comprising a semi-dry cat food.

32.-37. (Cancelled)